

Hammonds Plains Historical Society

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Hammonds Plains News From the Past – The Halifax Mail Star – September 15, 1951

Members of the Hammonds Plains Fire Department, who attended the meetings held recently at the Regional Training School in Halifax and received their certificates were Fire Chief Maurice Eisenhauer, Deputy Chief Harold Wright, Edward Melvin, Harry Smith, Clyde and Donald Haverstock and Lawrence Crowe. A meeting was held by the Hammonds Plains Fire Department at the A.O.F. Hall, at which Colonel Wright, Fire Marshall, and others gave talks on fire prevention. They showed motion pictures of fires and how to extinguish them.

Congratulations are being extended to Mrs. Maude Frizzell, who celebrated her 91st birthday on Saturday September 8th. A party was held by her daughters at her home, where about 80 guests gathered. Among them were her grandchildren and great grandchildren. The weather was ideal and lunch was served on the lawn, she received a large collection of lovely gifts, among them a decorated birthday cake. Mrs. Frizzell enjoys good health. She lives with her son, William and does all her own work. She reads and hooks rugs without aid of glasses.

The school still is closed owing to the polio epidemic in Halifax and vicinity. This year Mrs. John Publicover, a former teacher has accepted the position of principal and Miss R. Teasdale of Shubenacadie, the primary department.



Upcoming Presentations:

March 27th – The Life of
Madeline Symonds

May 29th – The History
behind the First Baptist
Cemetery

Check this Out!

Record-Sized Eggs Provided

In 1950, it was reported in the Halifax Mail Star that Mrs. Charles Romans has a hen that laid record-breaking eggs.

It said that recently she found one egg which measured 9 by 7½ inches. Inside the shell was the coat of egg white, while next to it was a full sized normal egg. The paper reported that this was the third time the hen has gone out for heavy production.



becoming a HPHS Member:

You can become a member of the Hammonds Plains Historical Society by filling out a registration form and e-mailing it to Dave Haverstock

(haverstockdave@gmail.com) or mailing to 1541 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia B4B 1P6. **Annual fee is \$10.** Renewals don't need new forms.

Registration forms are available during one of our general meetings or by copying from our web site.

2017 marks the 50th anniversary of Hammonds Plains Consolidated School. Here is a look at two of the original classes of the school from 1967-68 (Top – Grade 4/5, Bottom Grade 3)



Did the Mi' kmaq play hockey on Pockwock Lake?

What we Know:

It has been recorded in historical records that the Mi' Kmaq First Nation participated in the practice of playing hockey, as early as the 1700's. The Mi' Kmaq are often credited with inventing the ice hockey stick. The oldest hockey stick in existence to-day was craved by Mi' Kmaq from Nova Scotia, made between 1852 and 1856.

In 1863, the Starr Manufacturing Company in Dartmouth began to sell the Mi' Kmaq hockey sticks, by mass producing them. Hockey became a popular sport in Canada in the 1980's. Throughout the first decade of the twentieth century, the Mi' Kmaq Stick made by Starr Manufacturing was the bestselling stick in Canada. By 1903, apart from farming, the principal occupation of the local Mi' Kmaq nation was producing the Mi' Kmaq Hockey Stick. The Mi' Kmaq continued to make hockey sticks until the 1930's, when the product was industrialized.

What we can Infer:

While no official accounts exist of the Mi' Kmaq playing hockey in the Hammonds Plains area, we do know that the Mi' Kmaq communicated between groups and bands and it would have been a fair guess that the Mi' Kmaq throughout the whole province would have familiar with a game played on ice using a stick and some form of puck. Since we know the Mi Kmaq used Pockwock Lake and Big Indian Lake as winter encampments, there would be a good chance that hockey was played on these lakes before the community of Hammonds Plains was first settled in the late 1700's.

The Founding Fathers of Hammonds Plains:

The Founding Fathers is the name given to the settlers of the early 1820's who were prominent in the formation of the village of Hammonds Plains. We continue profiling the Founding Fathers in this year's newsletters.

Founding Father - George Worrell (1766-1841)

One of the early lumbering pioneers of the Hammonds Plains area was George Worrell. He came from a Loyalist family, having come to Nova Scotia as a child from Boston. His family had leased and ran one of the first public inns in the area, located along the Bedford Highway, in the Birch Cove district (in the early 1780's). The inn was known as Bedford Lodge. After the death of his father, George's mom petitioned for and received a grant of land in the Shubenacadie area.

In 1791, George purchased original Hammonds Plains Land Grant Lot # 12. This lot would have been on John Melvin's Hill (the hill between Hatfield Farms and Kynock Resources). George had come from a well to do Loyalist family, and as such, was educated and had excellent writing skills. He was noted in early Hammonds Plains Life as having very neat handwriting.

It is known that George married Rachael (last name unknown) before coming to Hammonds Plains. They had 8 children (William Henry, John, David, Mary, George, Margrate, Ann and Leah).

George was a leading citizen in getting the community of Hammonds Plains established as a village. His family was a religious one and they were instrumental in the creation of the Baptist Church in Lower Hammonds Plains. He was the first overseer of the road that went through the developing community. On the 1791 census he is listed as a farmer, but we know later he become involved in the budding lumbering industry in the area. He established one of the early mills, building it on Big Indian Lake. The mill later was run by sons, John and George, who had both moved to Kemptown, until the 1850's.

George passed away in 1841. His lot was left to his wife and daughter, Mary. It is unclear when the Worrell family left Hammonds Plains, but the estate was sold off by the 1850's. By the 1860's, there were no known members of the Worrell family left in Hammonds Plains/Kempton. The Worrell's were the first of the founding father families to totally leave the community.

Sights of the Horse & Buggy Era

Henry & Sarah Haverstock in front of their House on Hammonds Plains Road - Late 1800's



Hammonds Plains resident Mary Thomson riding her family wagon - 1920's

